

T H E

Christian History ;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*

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Saturday OCTOBER 29. 1743. § N<sup>o</sup>. 35.  
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*An Account of the Religious Societies at Edinburgh
finished.*

HOW beautiful and refreshing is it, my dear Friend, to hear of so many following after the despised JESUS ? Should we not take it as a Token for Good, that young Ones, instead of spending their spare Hours in idle vain and unprofitable Play, do now assemble and join in calling upon the LORD.

Is it not a good Sign to hear many poor foolish Virgins (instead of being employed in the *Vanities* of the generality of their Sex) meeting together for Prayer ; and many prodigal Youths, instead of Revelling and Drunkenness, Chambering and Wantonness, now breathing after the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, and him crucified ? Oh ! that the Lord would more and more exert his almighty Power amongst us.

I in the Name of the whole Societies, do earnestly beg the help not only of your Prayers, but of the praying Societies in *Glasgow*, that we may all know Jesus Christ, and the Power of his glorious Resurrection, and that we may glory in nothing save in the Cross of Christ.

I am, Dear Sir,

your very affectionate Servant,

Edinb. Aug. 8. 1743.

GEO. MUIRE.

N.B. There are several other Societies for Prayer near about this City prospering very well, which Conveniency can't now allow me to enumerate ; and altho' Vice much abounds, yet I hope Piety will prevail, and Christ wear his own dear-bought Crown amongst us. Adieu.

M m

G. M.

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The second Letter, and which is refer'd to in the preceeding is from Mr. A. Bowre to Mr. Muire.

Sir,

Edinb. Aug. 6. 1743.

AS you desire a short Account of the *two Societies* I am concerned in, I shall give it in a very few Words : They consist of *twenty five or twenty six* Members each, and except a very few, are all Persons whose Concern about Religion began in the late *Awakening*.

I never saw the *Ends* of such Societies answered near so well as among these, I think I may safely declare that I was never Witness to so much of real Christian *Exercise* among any Persons I have known as I have observed to my great Satisfaction among most of them. Its most amazing to observe how much some of them who at their first Concern were brutishly ignorant of every thing good, have now made such Advances in *Knowledge* that they excel those who were formerly far before them. The Concern about their *own* Salvation is not only remarkable, but the abiding Earnestness they show in their Prayers for the Increase of the *Redeemer's* Kingdom is most desirable, and the Care they show in watching over *one another* is one convincing Evidence of their brotherly Love, and true Christian Tendernefs. I might say a great deal more, but must conclude, because I cannot give a particular Account without exceeding due Bounds.

I am, &c. *A. Bowre.*

The five following Letters relate to the Reception, Mini-strations and Success of the Rev. Mr. Whitefield, (in his first Visit to Scotland in the Summer and Fall 1741.) at the three principal Cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen; which would have been inserted before had we received them sooner, and are too material to be omitted.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Whitefield, printed in the Glasgow Weekly History, No. 4.

Edinburgh, Aug. 14. 1741.

My dear Brother,

IT would make your Heart leap for Joy to be now at *Edinburgh*. I question whether there are not upwards of three Hundred

in *this City* seeking after JESUS every Morning. I have a constant Levee of wounded Souls, and many quite slain by the Law. God's Power attends me continually, just as when I left *London*. At seven in the Morning we have a sweet Lecture in the Fields, attended not only by the *common People*, but by Persons of *great Rank*. I have Reason to think several of the latter Sort are coming to JESUS. *Little Children* also are much wrought upon--- O my dear Brother, I am quite amazed when I think what God has wrought here in a Fortnight. Our Congregations consist of many Thousands. Never did I see so many Bibles, nor People look into them with more Attention. Plenty of Tears flow from their Eyes, and their Concern appears various Ways: I preach twice daily, and expound at a private House at Night, and am employed in speaking to Souls in Distress a great Part of the Day.

Dear Brother *Harris* ever ever yours G. W.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. E. A---n of Heriots Hospital in Edinburgh, printed in the Glasgow Weekly History, No. 15. December 8. 1741.

To Mr. Whitefield.

IT is with Pleasure I can now inform you that such has been the Behaviour of the Boys in *this Hospital* ever since they had the Opportunity of attending your Sermons, and particularly since that Time you spoke with them in the Hospital, that it is evident to every one that takes Notice of them that there is a very considerable Change in their *Lives*. An *external* Reformation prevails among them *all*; and I hope God has wrought *effectually* upon the Hearts of *many* of them.

It would surely be rude to take up your Time with a particular Narration of the many pleasant Circumstances of their Conduct, since you left us. But I cannot omit to tell you that one Night a Number of them came to my Room, and entertained me with very agreeable Conversation, and gathering from their Talk and Behaviour that they had something to say concerning their *Souls*, I desired them to lay aside their Bashfulness, and speak freely; so they began to acquaint me with their Grievances. One said, *I am troubled with ill Thoughts when I pray; such Thoughts as I fear God will be angry with.* Another said, *I think it is an exceeding difficult Thing to believe in JESUS CHRIST. I can believe that Christ is the Son*

of God and Saviour of lost Sinners, but O it is hard to believe he is my Saviour in particular : The rest said, *Their Cases were much the same.* I spoke a little to them as I could, and as GOD assisted me, and when we parted they went away into the School Chamber, and spent much of that Night in *Prayer* and reading GOD's *Word*, insomuch that I thought my self obliged to call at the Door and desire them to break up their Meeting for that Time, the Night being very cold ; and before many Days had passed they favoured me with the agreeable News that they had in a great Measure got above their *Fears.* And to this Day they continue frequent and fervent in *Prayer* to God for *themselves* and for *all Men* ; and not only those few, but almost all our Boys seem to be in love with their *Bibles*, and to delight in *Prayer.*

I have frequently taken a Course through their Rooms at ten and eleven o'Clock at Night, and found *great Numbers* in Raptures of *Devotion*, some in Company together, and others secretly by themselves, and this is their constant Practice every Day ; the older Ones teach the young Ones to pray not only by Example, but also by Advice and Instruction.

It was a common Thing for the Boys in this House to *conceal* the greatest Faults ; but now the Case is quite altered : The smallest slip is exposed & zealously complained of : they abhor Vice by whomsoever it is committed ; and dearly love every one who is called a true Christian.

The *other Hospitals* and they, now live in great *Friendship* and *Love*, delighting to talk of the Goodness of GOD to lost Sinners : whereas formerly they were too often *falling out.*

Heriots Hospital is now no more a Den of vitious Boys, but a *Bethel*, for GOD is worshiped there.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. A. WEBSTER, one of the Ministers of the City of Edinburgh, to the Rev. Mr. G. WHITEFIELD, printed in the Glasgow Weekly History, No. 17.

Rev'd and dear Sir,

April 20. 1742.

K Nowing that many are careful to inform you from Time to Time what passes here, I have hitherto delayed answering your most acceptable Letter, until I should tell you with the *greatest Certainty* what were the *blessed Effects* of your Ministrations amongst us ; and can now assure you that they were not more surprizing than *lasting* : I don't know or hear
of

of any *wrought upon* by your Ministry, but are *holding on* in the Paths of *Truth* and *Righteousness*: They seem possess'd of a truly *Christian Spirit*: *JESUS* is precious to their *Souls*; and like the Morning Light they are advancing with *increasing Brightness* to the perfect Day. *Religion* in this sinful City revives and flourishes: *Ordinances* are more punctually attended: People hear the *Word* with Gladness, and receive it in Faith and Love: *New Meetings* for *Prayer* and *spiritual Conference* are erecting every where: *Religious* Conversation has banish'd *Slander* and *Calumny* from several Tea-Tables; and Christians are not ashamed to own their dear *LORD* and *Master*: Praise is perfected out of the Mouths of *Babes* and *Sucklings*; and some *stout-hearted* Sinners captivated unto the Obedience of *CHRIST*.---

I cannot easily express with what Pleasure I write these Things; and doubtless they will give you no less Joy in reading them. Should not these Droppings of the Dew of Heaven encourage our Faith and Hope of a plentiful Effusion of the *SPIRIT* which will at once change our barren Wilderness into a fruitful Field? Should not this hasten your Return that we may take sweet Counsel together, and enter into the House of God in Company? You are often on our Hearts--- We long to see you Face to Face. May much of your great Master's Presence ever attend and come along with you.

Believe me to be, dearest Sir, your assured Friend,

and affectionate tho' unworthy

in the Work of the Gospel.

A. W---R.

An Account of the Success of Mr. Whitefield's Preaching at Glasgow in the Summer 1741. in a Letter from the Rev. Mr. McCulloch, Minister of the Gospel in Cambuslang to the Rev. Mr. Whitefield, printed in the Glasgow Weekly History, No. 13.

AS it is Matter of great Joy and Thankfulness to God, who sent you here, and gave you so much Countenance, and so remarkably crown'd your Labours when here at *Glasgow* with Success; so I doubt not but the following Account of the many Seals to your Ministry in and about that City, will be very rejoycing to your Heart, as our glorious Redeemer's Kingdom is so much advanced, and the everlasting Happiness of immortal Souls promoted.

I am well informed by some Ministers and other judicious and experienced Christians, that there are to the Number of 50 Persons already got Notice of in and about *Glasgow*, that by all that can be judg'd by Persons of the best discerning in spiritual Things, are savingly converted by the Blessing and Power of God, accompanying your ten Sermons in that Place, besides several others under Convictions, not reckon'd in this Number, whose State remains as yet a little doubtful. And besides several Christians of considerable standing, who were much strengthened, revived, and comforted, by Means of hearing your Sermons; being made to rejoyce in hope of the Glory of God, having attained the full Assurance of Faith.

Among those lately converted, here are several young People who were formerly openly wicked and flagitious, or at best but very negligent as to spiritual Concerns, but are now in the Way of Salvation. Some young Converts are yet under Doubts and Fears; but a considerable Number of them have attained to Joy and Peace in believing.

Several lately wrought upon in a gracious Way, seem to outstrip Christians of considerable standing in spiritual Mindfulness, and many other good Qualifications: and particularly in their Zeal for the Conversions of others, and Love to the Ordinances, without a Spirit of Bigotry or Party Zeal.

These Converts by your Ministry are discover'd from time to time; a good many are but lately got Notice of that were not known before; which was partly occasioned by their Convictions not being so strong and pungent at the first as they proved afterwards, partly by the Discouragement they met with in the Families where they resided, and partly by the reserv'd Tempers of the Persons themselves, and their Bashfulness, because of their former Negligences and open Enormities. These Things give Ground to hope there may be more discovered afterwards that are not yet known.

Besides these awaken'd by the Power of God accompanying your Sermons, there are others awaken'd since that, by Means of the great visible Change discovered in their former intimate Acquaintance that were then converted, when they saw the Change so remarkable, and the Effects so abiding.

Young Converts are exceeding active to promote the Conversion of others, especially their Relations and near Concerns, by their Exhortations and Letters to distant Friends in the Country,

Country, and there are some Instances of the good Effects of these your Endeavours.

They have all a great Love to one another, and all good Christians, and a great Sympathy with such of their Number as are under Doubts and Fears. Such of them as have not received Comfort, by their earnest and deep Concern, and close Attendance on the Means of Grace, are thereby Instrumental to excite Christians of older standing, to more diligence in Religion.

These, dear Brother, are a few Hints of some of the most remarkable Things, as to the Success of your Labours at Glasgow, by the divine Blessing. May a rich and powerful Blessing give a plentiful Increase to them every where, where you come with the glad Tidings of the great Salvation. With great Respect and Esteem I am, Reverend and dear Sir,

Your affectionate Brother in the Work of the Gospel,

W---mM--C---b.

An Account of the Rev. Mr. Whitefield and his Reception, Ministrations and Success at Aberdeen in a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Ogilvie one of the Ministers of that City, to a Person of Honour, printed in the Glasgow Weekly History, No. 28.

Honoured Sir,

Aberdeen, Octob. 3. 1741.

I Had the Honour of your's by yesterday's Post; and at your Desire shall not refuse, (however much Reason I may have for declining to offer my Judgment or Opinion in Things of this Nature,) to acquaint you freely of what I think of the Rev. Mr. *Whitefield*, or rather what is the Opinion of Persons of more Acquaintance with the good Ways of God.

He is, I believe, justly esteemed, by all who are personally acquainted with him, an eminent *Instrument* of reviving, in these declining Times, a just Sense and Concern for the great Things of Religion. We have of late been much employ'd, and a great Noise has been made about the *lesser Matters* of the Law: and are now much broken in Judgment about Things, many of which I must own I do not understand. The Cry has been and still continues loud -- *Lo here is Christ*, and *Lo there!* And now the Lord has raised up this eminent Instrument, from a Quarter whence we could not have expected it, to call us all to return to him, from whom, it is plain, we have deeply revolted. His being by
Education

Education and Profession of a different Way, from what I cannot but think is most justly professed among us, seems to me to add no small Weight to his Testimony ; as does also his Age : The Lord by this is, as it were, attracting our Eyes and Attention to One, who, had he been formerly of us, would doubtless like others be despised. And yet I cannot but look upon it as a sad Instance of a departing God, that, instead of Regard, he meets not only with Contempt, but with Opposition also, from those who ought to act a very *different Part* ---- Did he preach another JESUS, or another Doctrine, he ought justly to be rejected : But this is not the Case.

How surprisingly strange is the Conduct of these Ministers, especially of this Church, who oppose him ! And yet this very Thing is advanced as an Argument against him-- It is said *he advances nothing new !* and I allow it : This gives his Friends Joy. But these Reverend Gentlemen should mind, That there are *two* Things in Gospel Ordinances, *Purity* and *Power*. The *first* in Mercy we still have in some good Measure : Tho' Complaints of the want of this are very open. But the *last* we sadly confess the want of ; and *this* is what attends the Gospel dispensed by him. And sure I am, that even the credible Report of it should much endear him to all, who wish well to the Interest of our dear, tho' too unknown, and altogether lovely LORD JESUS.

His *Calmness* and *Serenity* under all he meets with, yea his *Joy* in Tribulation, is to me so surprising, that I often think, the Lord sent him to this Place in particular, to teach me how to preach, and especially how to suffer.

His Attachment to *no Party* but to CHRIST and *true Grace* alone, has long appeared to me a peculiar Excellency in him. Christianity has been long broken into so many different Sects and Parties, that an honest Pagan might justly be at a Loss, was he among us, where to find the *Religion* of JESUS.

One now appears who loudly calls us (and whose Voice the Lord seems to back with Power) to look into the *original Plan of that Religion we profess*. Sure nothing more just, nothing more reasonable. He tells us wherein the Kingdom of God does consist : And yet how sad is it he should be despised. Who knows but this may be the Lord's last Voice to us, before he takes his Kingdom from us.

(To be continued.)